

In the Drawings

A replacement sheet containing the amendments to Figure 7 is being submitted herewith.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 6, 2006, claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-18 and 21-24 are pending. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 12, 14, 16-18, 23 and 24 were held rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dutta (US 5,599,086). Claims 8,21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Tiesler (US 6,575,528). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Woertz (US 3,603,918). Claims 4, 10, 11, and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dutta in view of Laser (US 3,569,899).

DISCUSSION

The present claims have been amended to better clarify the novel structure claimed by the present invention. The present invention as claimed, unlike any of the cited references either alone or in combination, teaches a practical and safe power strip for automotive vehicles in which modular components may be removably installed or uninstalled. The configuration of t-shaped main center member housing a power strip on the protected inside, a ground strip on the exposed outside, and a flexible cover (flange) that protects the power strip when the removable modules are removed is (in combination with the additional claim limitations) a unique and novel structure. The flanges allows such modules to be simply and easily installed and removed by retaining connections and mounting through pressure on the electrical contacts trapped against the t-shaped main center member. Furthermore, the ground strip positioning allows the ground contact to be used with spring characteristics such that sliding of the modules is further enabled.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the aforementioned amendments and remarks. No new material has been added by incorporation of these amendments and every limitation is clearly disclosed in the specification and drawings as filed. The specification and drawings have

been amended simply to bring them into conformity with present amended claim language.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all the rejections are now overcome. The Applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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